

City of Salem
New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail
East of Salem River, adjacent to
State Route 49
Salem
Salem County
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-1166

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

CITY OF SALEM

HABS No. NJ-1166

Location: New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail, East of Salem River, adjacent to State Route 49, Salem, Salem County, New Jersey.

Significance: The City of Salem (New Salem) is one of the oldest major municipalities located in South Jersey. Established in 1676 by John Fenwick, it prospered as a successful river port through the nineteenth century.

History: The City of Salem was established by John Fenwick in 1676, and despite his legacy of problems, it prospered as a successful river port through the nineteenth century. One remaining symbol of its early government is the reworked Old Salem County Courthouse at Broadway and Market streets (1735, 1817, 1908), a two-and-one-half story square brick block laid up in Flemish bond. Salem's eighteenth-century Georgian dwellings reflect its founding Quaker traditions, though the frequency of patterned brick work here is limited to occasional Flemish-bond coursing and dated gable ends. A stunning example of later Queen Anne architecture is found in the Salem Municipal Building, with its irregular jumble of fish-scale shingles, scrolls, dormers, and elaborate iron weather vanes. The building was moved to its present site from West Broadway at the end of Market Street where New Market Street now opens on to Broadway.

Among the better known Georgian residences are the John Worledge House (1727), with an elaborate horizontal zigzag pattern on the east end, and the Alexander Grant House (1721). The Grant House is among the approximately seventy-six structures included in the National Register of Historic Places' "Market Street Historic District," which suffers little or no intrusion by twentieth-century structures. Most of these buildings are two-and-one-half or three-story brick houses facing onto Market Street, the historic commercial thoroughfare. The prosperity of the Federal era is represented by formal interiors and exteriors, classical trim, fanlights and fireplaces. Later Greek and Gothic Revival styles are depicted by the use of marble for porch and window trim and gougework in the architraves. The texture of the wealthy Italianate homes extends onto the street by elaborate cast-iron fencing that is produced locally, as in the William Sharp House (1862), for instance. The housing is punctuated by alleys that once led to the livery stables behind Market Street and the wharves at water's edge.

Not all of Salem's deserving resources are included in the historic district. Along the north and south sides of Route 49 there are fine examples of Georgian rowhouses, as well as Victorian and Gothic Revival structures. The side streets east of Market Street are lined with examples of two-family double houses, which probably served as worker or middle-class housing in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Their form

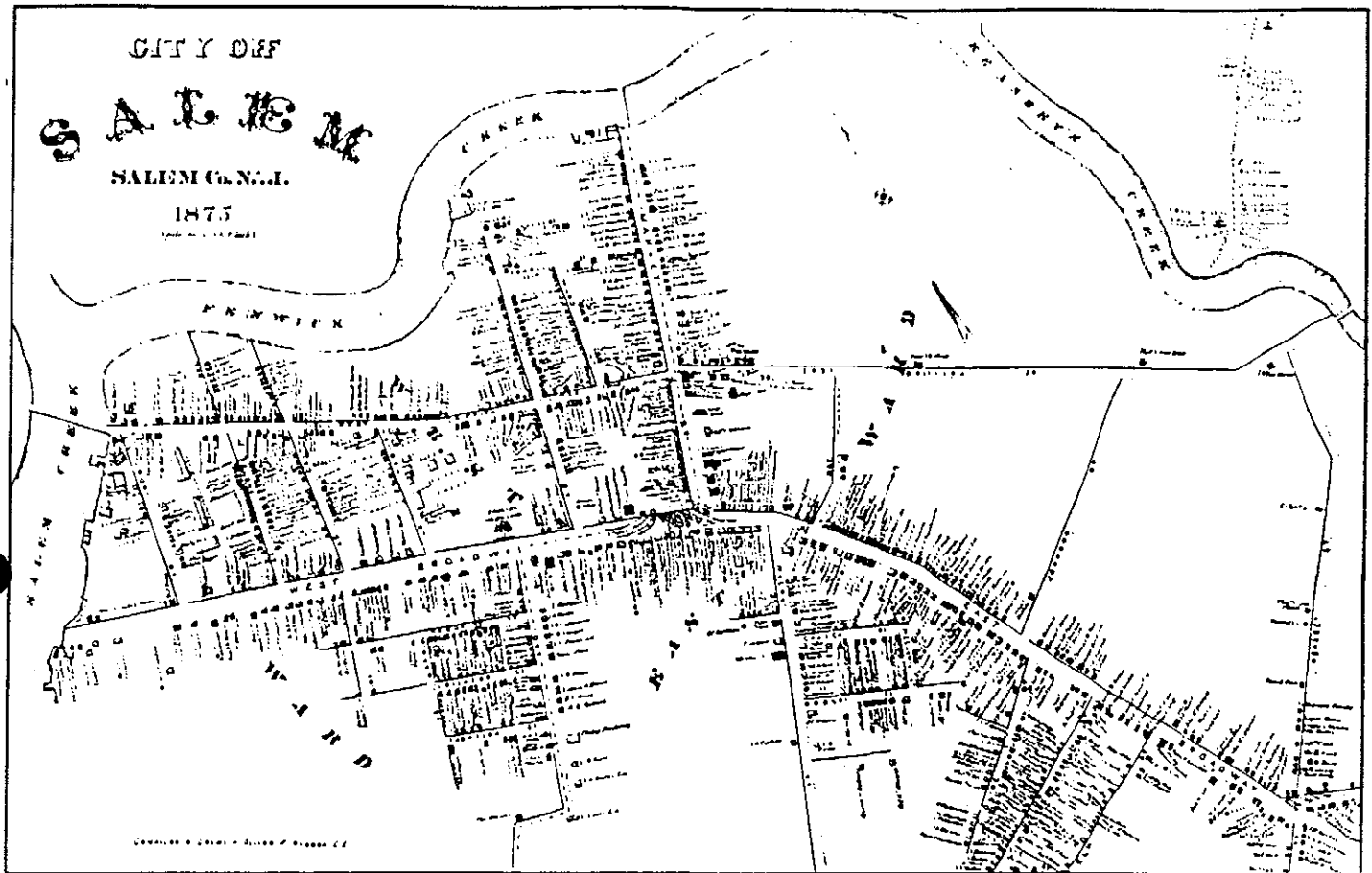
and features vary: steeply pitched roofs with center gables, or paired gables with decorated vergeboards, pointed-arch windows, or a one-story porch. The Victorian-influenced buildings have one- or two-story bay windows, a mansard or cross-gable roof, and spindlework on the cross gables and porches.

Sources: Sebold, Kimberly, and Sara Amy Leach. Historic Themes and Resources within the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail: Southern New Jersey and the Delaware Bay. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Interior, 1991.

H.C. Woolman and T.F. Rose, Historical and Biographical Atlas of the New Jersey Coast. Philadelphia: Wooldman and Rose, 1878; reprint, Toms River, N.J.: Ocean County Historical Society, 1985.

Project Information:

This project was sponsored by the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail (NJCHT) of the National Park Service, Janet Wolf, director. The documentation was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), Robert Kapsch, chief, under the direction of HABS historian Sara Amy Leach, project supervisor. Three historians completed the research during summer 1991: Field supervisor Sarah Allaback (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Alfred Holden (University of Vermont), and Camille Gatz (North Carolina). David Ames (University of Delaware) made the large-format photographs. Historian, Elizabeth Harris May (George Washington University), edited the HABS reports.



City of Salem, Salem County, New Jersey, 1875. Compiled and Drawn by Oliver F. Waegon C.E.

H.C. Woolman and T.F. Rose, Historical and Biographical Atlas of the New Jersey Coast (Philadelphia: Woolman and Rose, 1878; reprint, Toms River, N.J.: Ocean County Historical Society, 1985), 193.